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RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

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RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

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TAGS: PGOV KDEM KPKO CG ELECTIONS

SUBJECT: FIRST SHIPMENT OF BALLOTS ARRIVES IN DRC

REF: A. KINSHASA 763

¶B. KINSHASA 676

11. (U) The first shipment of presidential and legislative ballots for the DRC's July 30 elections arrived in Kinshasa June 10 from printers in South Africa. The legislative ballots were subsequently delivered to Kananga, the capital of Western Kasai province, for delivery to voting centers there. The two flights, each transporting 42 tons of ballots, are the first of an expected 75 shipments between South Africa and 14 distribution points within the DRC. All ballots for the country's 169 electoral districts and presidential race -- estimated to weigh nearly 1,800 tons -- are expected to reach the DRC by June 23, according to the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI). While the South African military provided the transport of materials to the DRC, MONUC and the CEI will be responsible for distributing ballots to the planned 53,000 voting stations throughout the country.